

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Figs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are amended as follows:

Fig. 1, reference No. 24 is added to the top of module 50;

Fig. 2, characters "X" and "Y" are removed from the top of element 22;

Fig. 4, reference No. 62 is added;

Fig. 6, reference Nos. 63 and 65 are added;

Figs. 7 and 9, springs 63 are added; and

Fig. 8, reference No. 24 is added.

Two sets of drawings are attached. One set of drawings shows the changes in red; and the second set of drawings are clean copy replacement sheets including the changes.

REMARKS

Corrections to Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 6 – 9 are made to be consistent with the specification. No new matter has been added. Two sets of replacement sheets 1-9 are attached. One set shows the changes in red; and the second set is a clean copy set having the changes.

Claims 1-13 are in the application. Independent claim 1 is amended to avoid the art of record. Claims 14-17 are cancelled.

The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ericson et al. (Ericson) in view of Mahnke et al. (Mahnke) is traversed.

Extension cords are used, both indoors and outdoors, to connect a load such as an appliance to a live source of electrical power. When the extension cord is used to connect the load to a live source of electrical power, a user will normally connect the receptacle end of the extension cord to the load and then insert the plug of the extension cord into a live receptacle for a source of power. But, at this time, if the load remains de-energized after the plug is inserted into the receptacle, the user can only guess where the problem lies. For example, is the receptacle not connected to a live source of electrical power; is a conductor of the extension cord not continuous; is the load defective, etc.

Our invention is directed to helping solve this problem by indicating whether or not the prongs of the extension cord are connected to a live source of electrical power. Our invention does not indicate that the load is properly grounded nor do we use or claim a ground fault detector as is disclosed in Ericson. Our invention is not directed toward, nor are we even concerned with whether the ground line of the extension cord is connected and continuous and whether the not the neutral or hot and ground lines have been interchanged as is disclosed in Mahnke. Our invention is directed to indicating whether or not the prongs of the plug which slidably engage corresponding contacts in a mating connector are connected to a live source of electrical power. Thus, in our invention, we provide a series circuit from the top of one prong through an LED and a resistor to the top of a second prong of a plug to indicate if the lower ends of the prongs

of the plug are connected to a live source of electrical power. With our invention, the LED will glow when the prongs of the plug are connected to a live source of electrical power, even when the conductors of the extension cord connected to the prongs are not continuous. Clearly, neither the Ericson nor the Mahnke reference, either separately or combined, disclose doing what we now disclose and claim as our invention. With Ericson and Mahnke, a fault is indicated when a conductor of the extension cord is not continuous. In our invention, a fault is not indicated when a conductor of the extension cord is not continuous. Our invention will, however, indicate that a fault exists if the prongs of the plug are not connected to a live source of electrical power. Repeating, our invention will not indicate that a fault exists when the prongs of the plug are connected to a live source of electrical power, even when the conductors of the extension cord upstream of the prongs are defective such as not being continuous.

Our amended claim 1 avoids the Ericson reference in view of the Mahnke reference by reciting the structure of ...“first and second contacts having a first end coupled to the connector and a second end adapted to slidably engage corresponding contacts in a mating connector for receiving electrical power” in combination with “a series circuit having light emitting means having an on state and an off state ... electrically coupled to the first ends of said first and second contacts for indicating if said second ends of said contacts are connected to a live source of electrical power when engaging said mating connector by being in its on state”.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, also avoid the cited references.

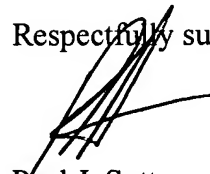
Claims 1-13 now clearly avoid the cited references and, therefore, it is our understanding that claims 1-13 now present in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for the amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1185.

In the event that an extension of time is required to make this amendment timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is

required to make this amendment timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit an overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 12-1185.

Respectfully submitted,



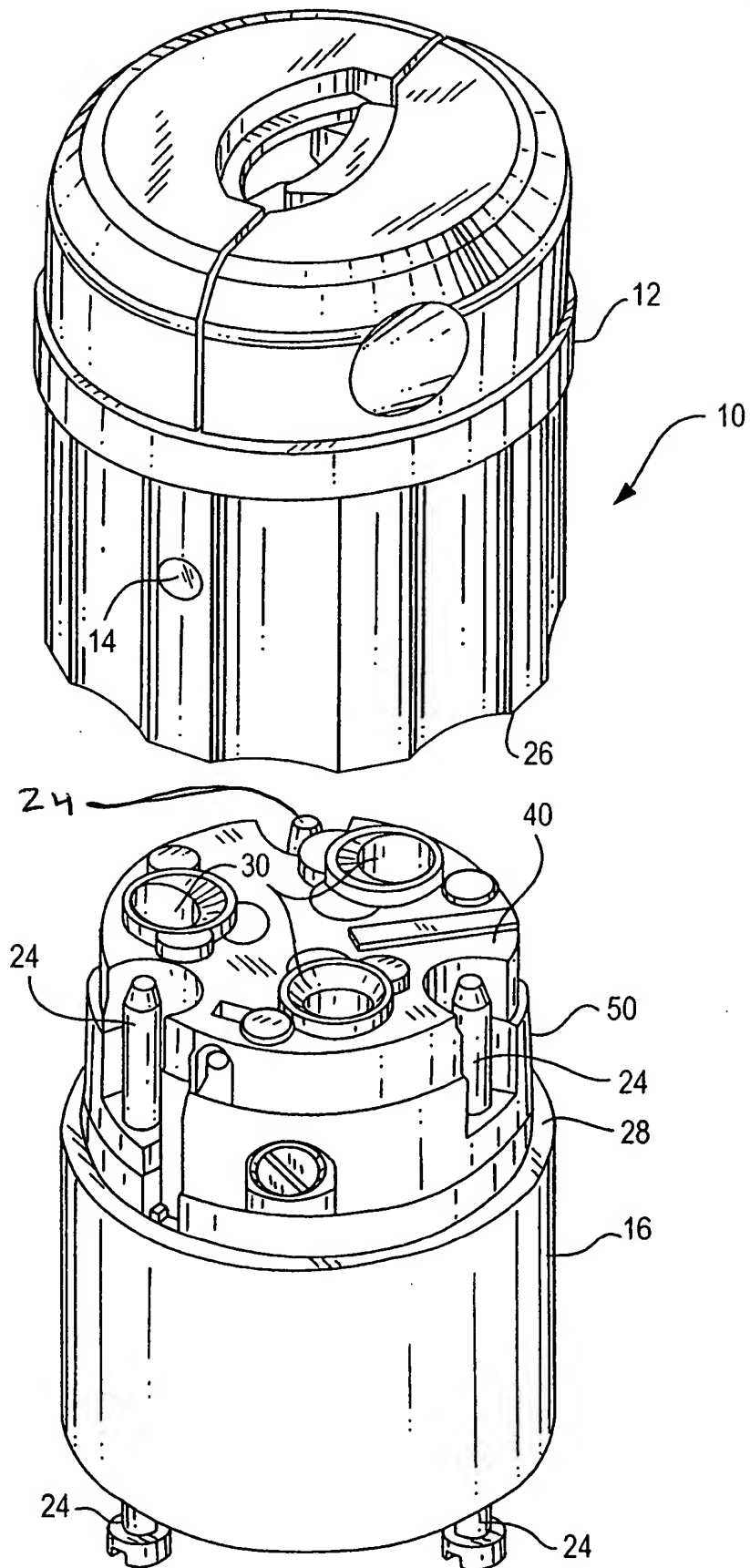
Date: July 13, 2005

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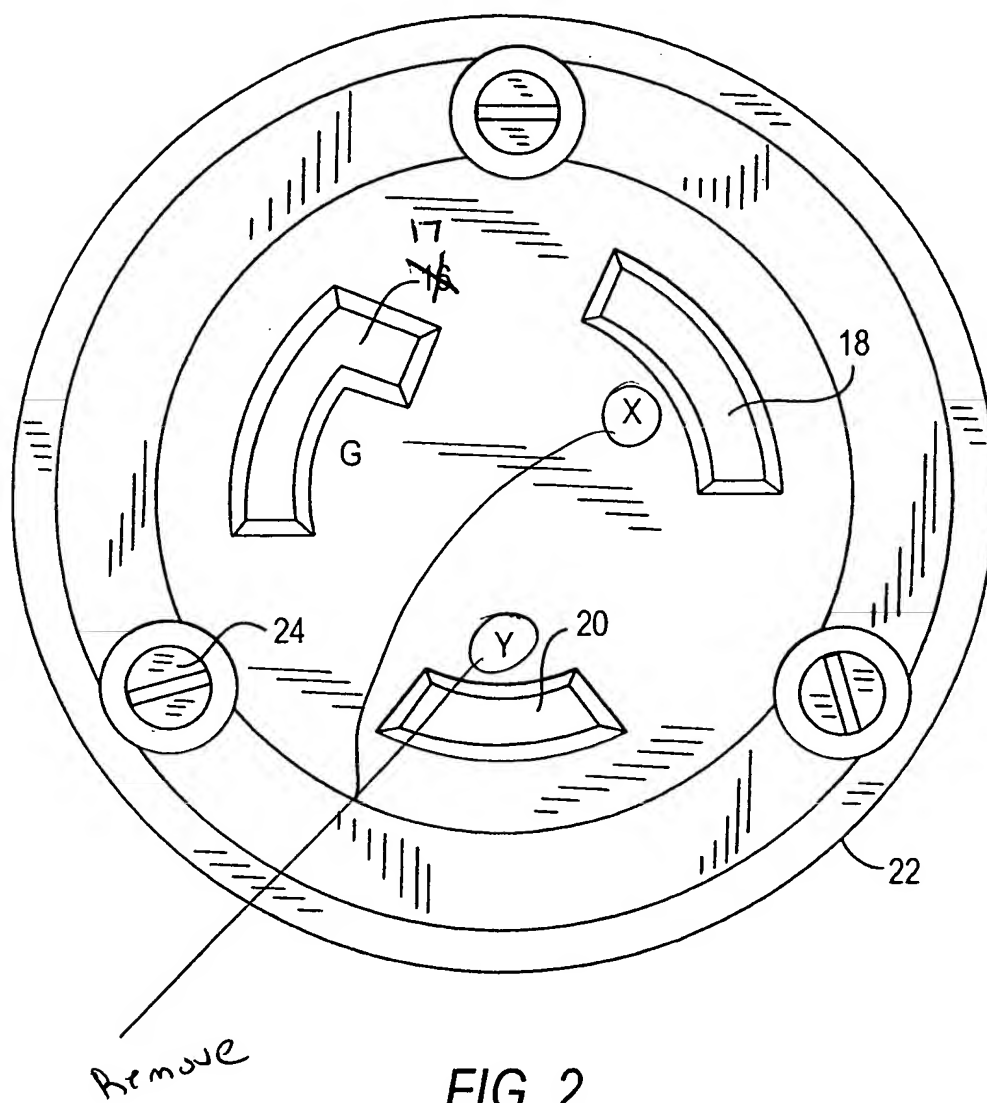
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New York, NY 10166



FIG. 1



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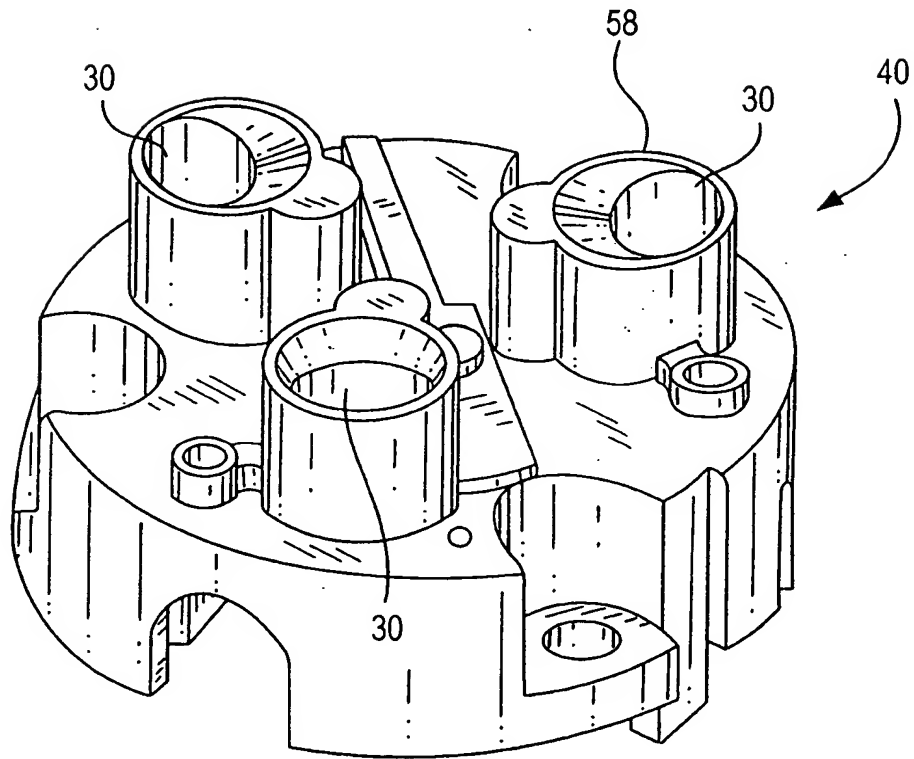


FIG. 3

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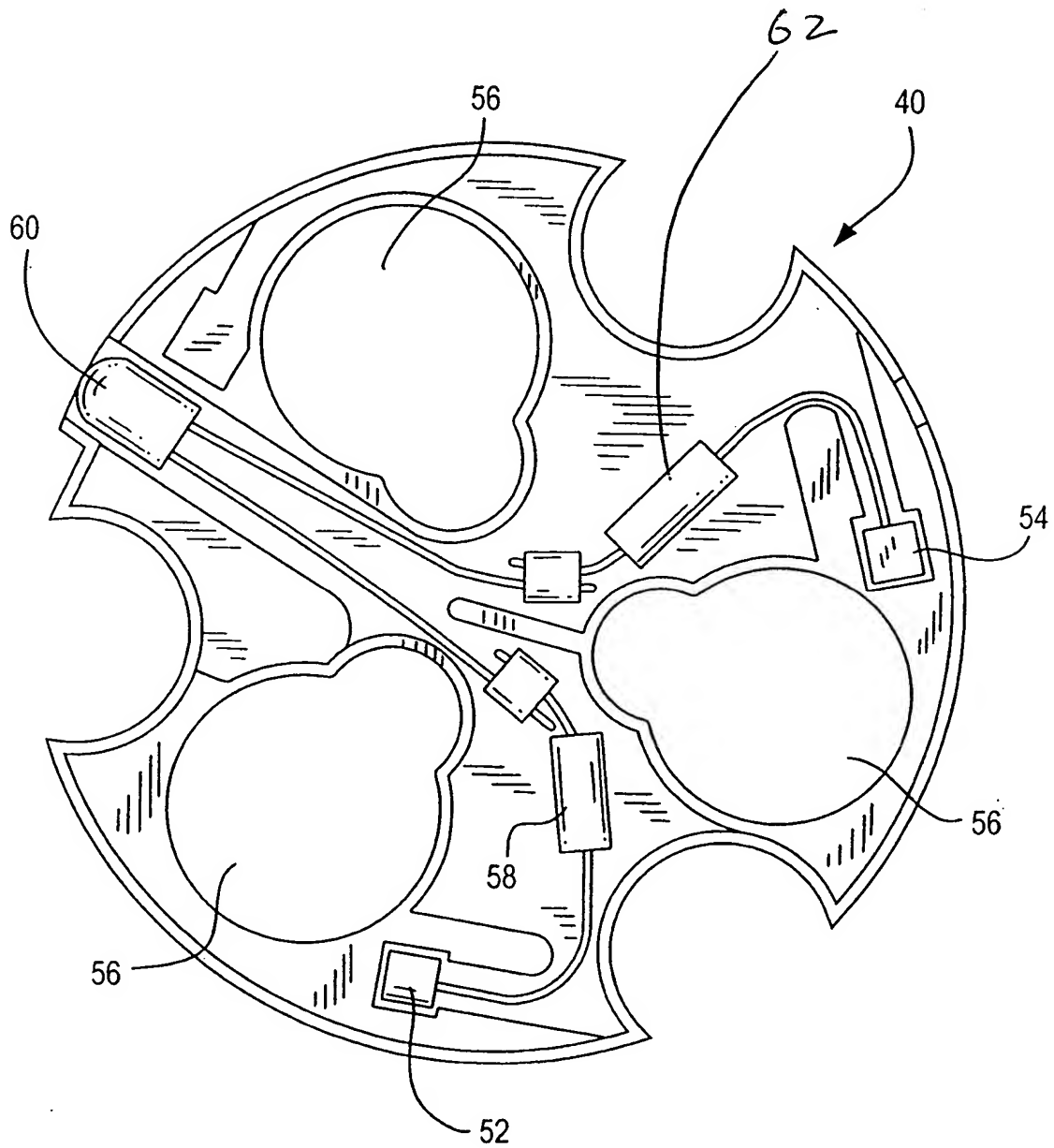


FIG. 4

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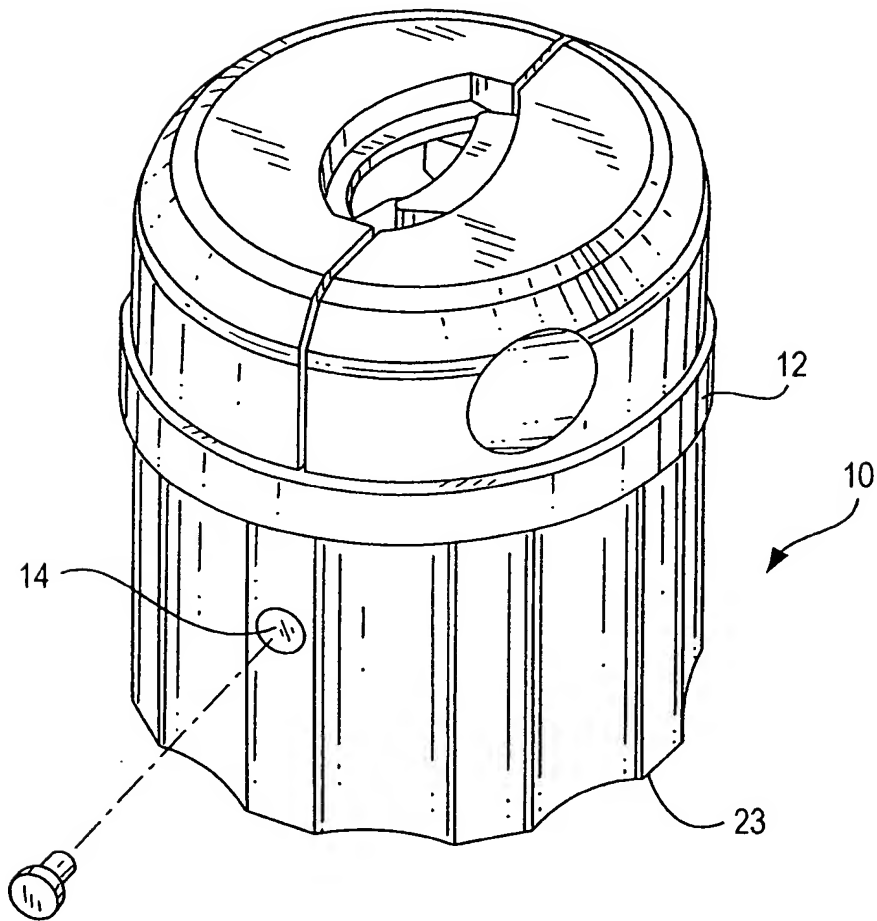


FIG. 5

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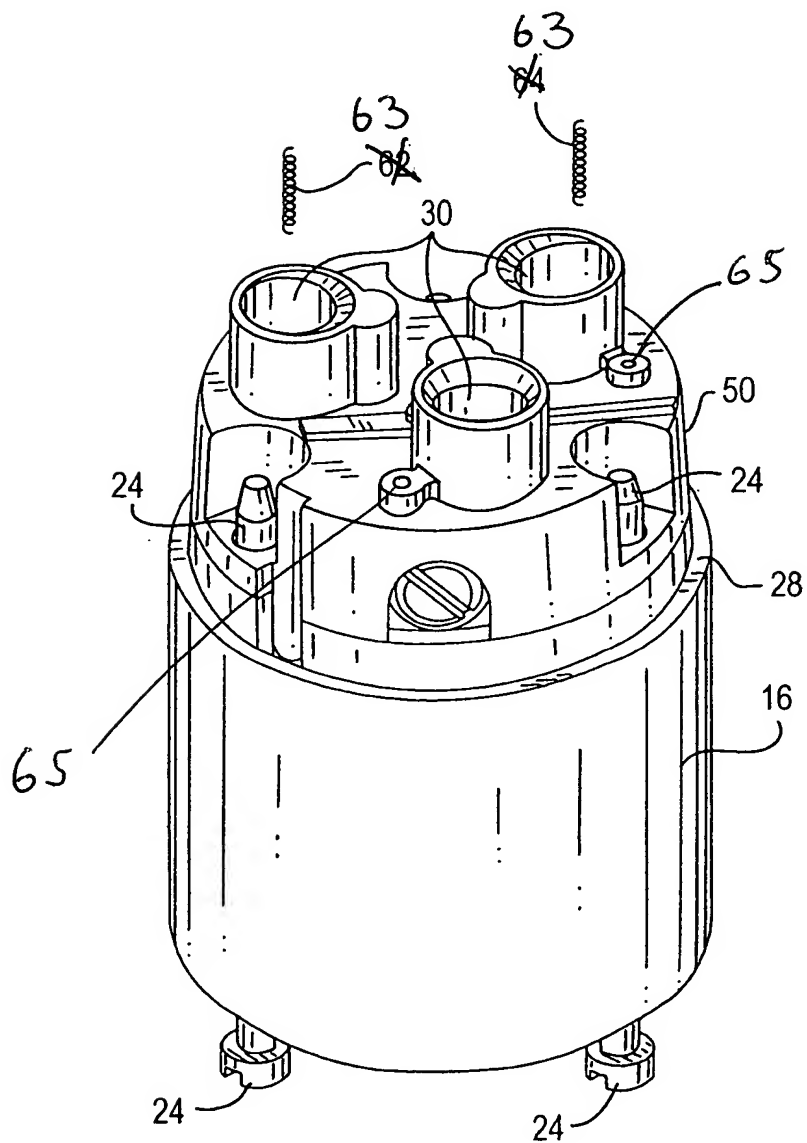


FIG. 6

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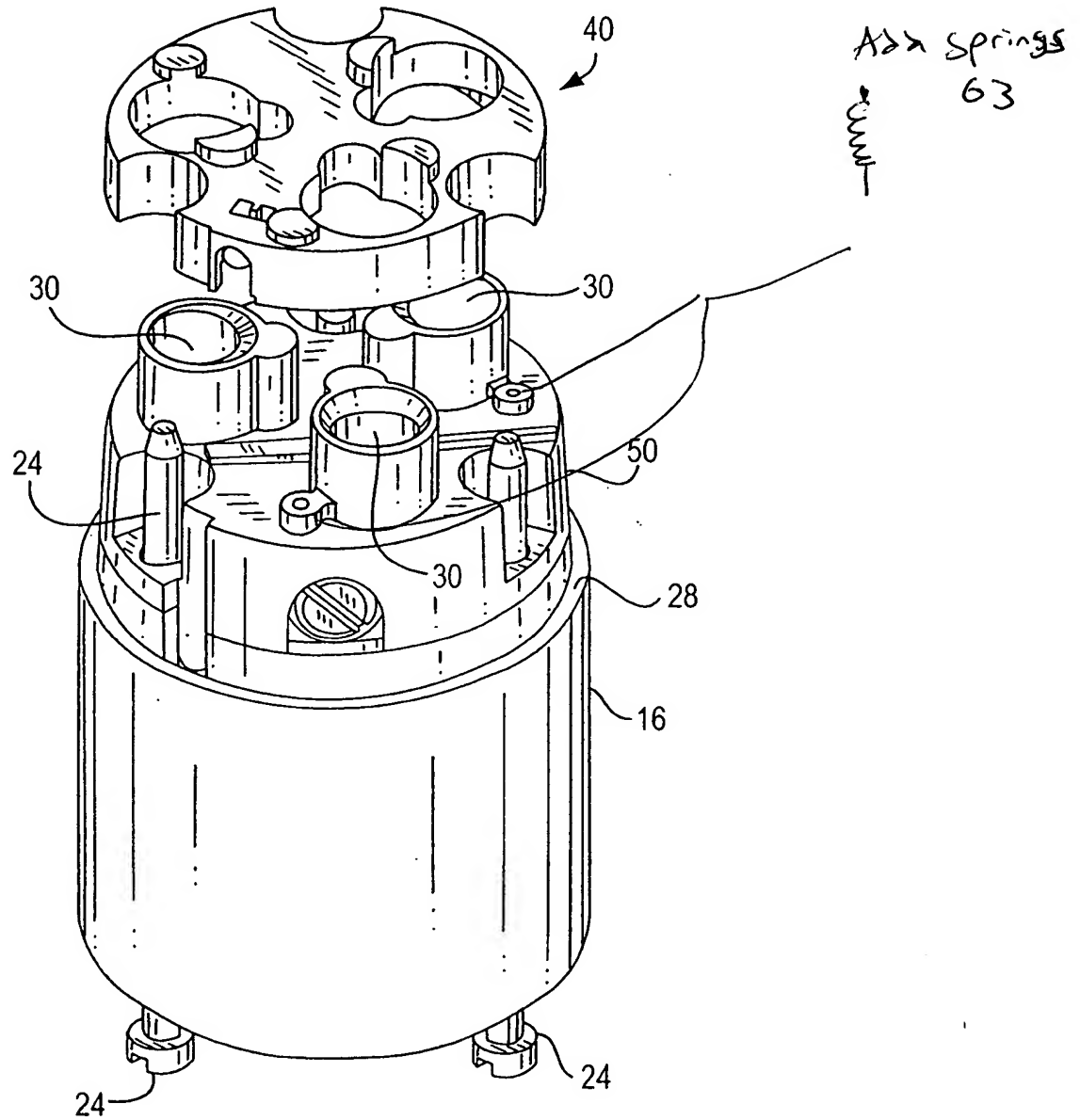


FIG. 7

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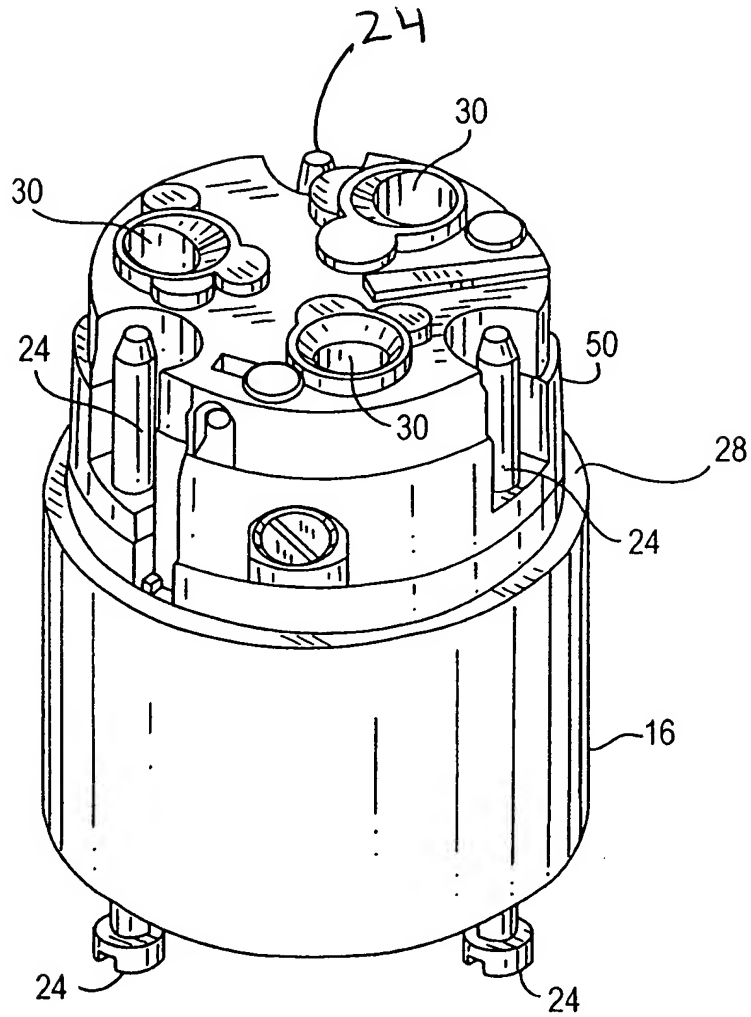


FIG. 8

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